THE SEA SERPENT MYSTERY---How Many Monsters of the Deep Did the Dutch Captain See?

NOW that the seaside resorts are in full blast, and it is desirable to keep the children from wading too far from the shore, it is well to mention that during the Summer months the sea serpents are wont to prowl aong the coast in search of what they can gobble up. The annual crop of sea serpent stories opens early this season, and the Nantucket skippers predict an unusually large crop, with new varieties and attractions never before mentioned.

For many years it was the custom of all captains of whaling vessels to furnish a full and detailed account of all sea serpents seen during a cruise, and some of these earlier reports were of a very startling and sensational character, as the old log books show. No two accounts seem to tally, either in regard to the size or characteristics of the serpents. By some they were described as being several hundred feet long, and as round as a hogshead, with heads and manes like horses, and in most cases with but a single eye in the centre of the forehead, which gave rise to a dispute as to whether they were not totally blind, like some species of eels.

A certain Dutch Captain Hauptmann, took up the question of their blindness, and proved that their loss of sight was due to terrific battles with their mortal enemy, the swordfish. In a well authenticated description, attested to by a score of trustworthy witnesses, he tells how, while his ship was becalmed off Coney Island, he was surrounded by a number of these monsters, who came within ten feet of his bowsprit. Regarding the question of their blindness, he says: "Just two out of the lot could look to larboard; just three could look from their starboard blinkers; four could not see out of their starboard eyes, and just five could not use their larboard optics."

All of which is satisfactory and conclusive so far as it goes, but he does not really tell how many sea serpents he saw at the one time, although that was the real purport of his description. Now, as a matter of fact, how many serpents must he have seen? It is somewhat of a puzzle, so $5 will be given for the best answer within two weeks. Address,

SAM LOYD, New York Journal.

TO TELL THE NUMBER THOUGHT OF.

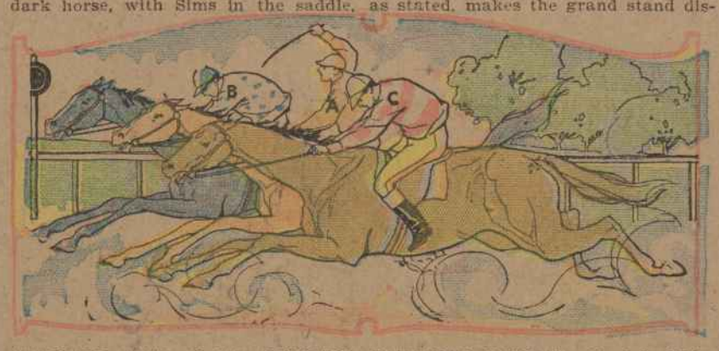
HERE is one of those simple little mind-reading tricks which the young folks love so to spring on you just at such times as they have an appreciative audience to make fun of your blundering attempts to explain the mystery.

The smart boy tells you to think of any number you wish, and you naturally think of 2. He tells you to double it, so it becomes 4. You are told to add 1 more to it, 5. Then you must multiply it by 5. Then 5 more must be added, 30. Now multiply it by 10, 300. Then substract 100, and you are told that if you strike off the two left hand figures the original number first thought of remains, and you are challenged to explain the reason why, which takes two hours, or to listen to Charley's explanation, which is good for the whole evening.

Ormonde Wins the Great Horse Race.

THE race, as shown, was an exciting one. The first horse, Jean Bereaud, ridden by Jockey Sloane, is well in the van, but has made a lavish display of speed which he could not maintain to the finish. He had 220 yards to run, and is going at the record rate of 51 feet per second, but is falling away at the rate of 1 foot per second, so that neither whip nor spur will hold him together even for second place. He runs 51 feet in the first second, then 50, then 49, 48, 47, down to 37, passing under the wire in 15 5-6 seconds.

Banastar, who had just 250 yards to run, was a horse of great endurance and was trained to maintain the uniform speed of 48 feet per second throughout the race, so he speedily passes Ormonde and overtakes and passes Jean Bereaud just 30 feet from the finish and passes under the wire in 15 5-8 seconds. But just at that critical stage of the race Ormonde, the who has just been passed by Banastar, dark horse, with Sims in the saddle, as stated, makes the grand stand display and is landed a winner by a marvellous burst of speed, which shows the skill and genius of the great jockey to advantage.



ORMONDE FIRST, 15 6-11 SECONDS; BANASTAR SECOND, 15 5-8 SECONDS; JEAN BEREAUD THIRD, 15 5-6 SECONDS.

Ormonde, as explained, had been taking things easily at the rate of but 40 feet to the second, but now in the final effort increases in a regular ratio of 1 foot per second, going from 40 to 41, to 42, 43, etc., up to 54 feet per second, so as he had just 245 yards to run he overhauls the other horses within 10 yards of the finish and passes under the wire a winner in 15 6-11 seconds. Ormonde first, 15 6-11 seconds; Banastar second, 15 5-8 seconds, and Jean Bereaud third in 15 5-6 seconds. A sensational finish, indeed, one that would please the talent.

The prize of $5 for the best answer is awarded to FRANK L. VAN CLEEF, of No. 39 Fort Greene place, Brooklyn, who also solved all of the other puzzles correctly.

No. 6.---For Boys and Girls---"Alice in Wonderland" and Her Friends in Their Appropriate Colors.

MARY SWANN, aged eleven, living at No. 732 Amsterdam avenue, New York, wins the Journal's $5 prize for her solving of Alice in Wonderland, No. 4. It was very well done for a little girl, and shows that Mary has studied the effects one is able to get out of a simple box of colors.

NAME, AGE, ADDRESS.

"You are old," said the youth, "one
would hardly suppose
That your eye was as steady as ever,
Yet you balance an eel on the end of
your nose—
What made you so awfully clever?

"The reason I do it," the old man replied,
As he chuckled aloud in his mirth,
"Is to add to the joy of the children
who read
The finest newspaper on earth."

They are going to paint me, I'd have
you to know,
With the eel poised well on my nose;
I'm old and I'm fat, but I'm not a bit
slow,
And I assume an original pose.

TO THE BOY OR GIRL WHO COLORS THIS PICTURE MOST ATTRACTIVELY AND SENDS IT TO THE SUNDAY JOURNAL'S PUZZLE EDITOR WITHIN ONE WEEK WILL BE GIVEN A PRIZE OF $5.

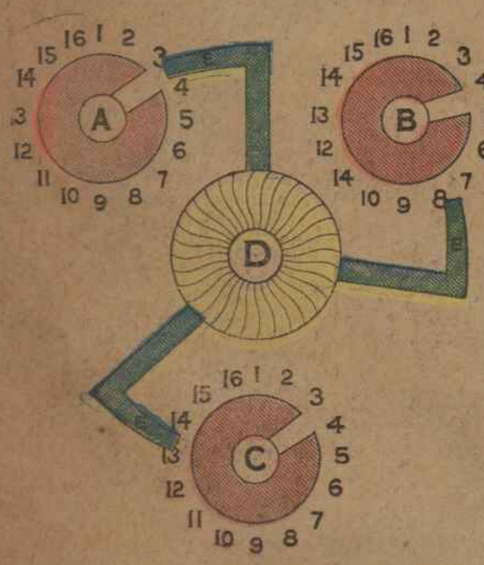
THE PUZZLE OF THE COMBINATION LOCK.

THE principle of a safe lock, of the kind most generally known as a combination lock, pertains to the nature of a puzzle pure and simple, and, indeed, such locks are referred to by the oldest writers on the subject as puzzle-locks. A combination lock is nothing but a puzzle, and its safety depends entirely upon the difficulty, or rather the improbability of a person guessing the right combination. Bankers and others who have large sums of money locked up in their safes would feel more apprehension if they understood the real nature of a combination lock. It might baffle a burglar for a month, but is just as likely to be opened in from one to twenty minutes. On several occasions when I was called in to open a safe lock the trick did not require fifteen minutes.

During the Paris Exhibition of 1867 I was so lucky as to open three French safe locks in less than half an hour, but then at that time the French locks were absolutely worthless.

As comparatively few persons understood anything about the principle of a safe lock, it will be of general interest to give a simple explanation of the inside workings:

Look at the construction of the first combination lock ever made; and despite of the thousands of patents and great improvements made of late years the principle is always the same.



W MANY UNSUCCESSFUL WAYS ARE THERE TO OPEN THIS LOCK?

D is the outside handle, furnished with three little hooks, E, E, E, which permit the handle to turn when these hooks can enter into those little notches marked F, F, F. Those round disks, A, B, C, are connected with knobs on the front of the safe, so that when you turn the pointers to certain numbers the three notches will be in right position to open the safe. I have taken out many patents on locks, and this same principle is represented in them all.

I give this primitive illustration of a three tumbler lock, because it is the same that A. C. Hobbs, the famous American expert brought to me somewhere about 1851, when he picked the great Brahmah lock in London and won two hundred guineas.

He showed me a rough drawing of the lock, and asked the question which I now propound to you: If there is a three-disk lock, with sixteen numbers to each disk, in how many ways is it possible to make an unsuccessful attempt to open the lock? Hobbs was one of the greatest natural born mechanics I ever met, but he had no genius for figures.

BY SAM LOYD.

SOLUTION TO THE SUGAR PLUM PROBLEM.

IN this unique display of the manipulation of figures, which has been discussed by old writers on mathematics, it has been maintained that the apparent contradiction in the second round of the scramble, when Anderson got one-quarter, Britten one-half and Daddy Mann two-sevenths, which, as a matter of fact, would be more than the whole, referred to those proportions of what was left. That is to say, when Anderson got one-quarter Britten got a half of the remainder. This would conform to the answer as published, but as it conflicts with other statements it can clearly be shown that Britten gets one-third to make it one of the most remarkable freaks of figures extant. There is no great difficulty involved, but the manipulation of figures is simply wonderful. To explain it after the nature of a simple narrative, devoid of algebraic and mathematical complications, we will say that the boys had a bag containing 26,880 sugar plums. Anderson seized two-thirds—17,920. Britten caught three-eighths, 6,720, out of his hands, and Christal laid on to three-tenths more, 5,376, which would leave Anderson but 5,824 of his plunder. Daddy Mann ran off with all Anderson had left except one-seventh, viz., 4,096, which Edouards secured slyly for himself, 832. So we have Anderson, 0; Britten, 6,720; Christal, 5,376; Daddy Mann, 4,992, and Edouards, 832.

Then Anderson and Christal jointly set upon Britten, who in the conflict shed one hand of what he had, and which were equally picked up by Daddy Mann and Edouards. That would still leave Anderson with 0; Britten, 3,360; Christal, 5,376; Daddy Mann, 6,672, and Edouards, 2,512. Britten then kicked over Christal's hat, and they all went for what it contained. Anderson got one-quarter, 1,344; Britten, one-third, so with hat he had 5,152; Daddy Mann, two-sevenths, with his 8,208, and Christal 352, and Edouards 2,864, as they divided what was left.

Daddy Mann then struck three-quarters of what Anderson and Britten had last acquired out of their hands, but they recovered with difficulty five-eighths of it in equal shares again; but the other three carried off one-fifth of same each. So it would now show that Anderson has 1,071; Britten, 4,515; Christal, 646; Daddy Mann, 8,502, and Edouards, 3,158.

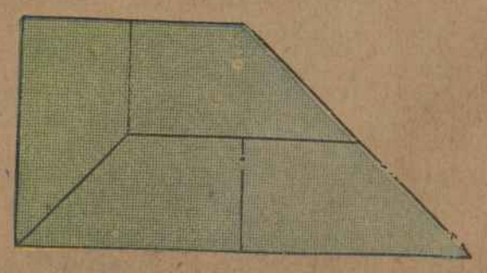
Upon this they called a truce and agreed that the one-third of the whole as left by Anderson after his first seizure should be divided equally among them. This would make the final distribution: Anderson, 2,863; Britten, 5,335; Christal, 2,458; Daddy Mann, 10,294, and Edouards 4,950, which is the first and only correct answer ever published to this famous old puzzle, which has created considerable discussion for over a hundred years.

The prize of $5 for the best answer is awarded to EMMA MORTON, of No. 2 Stevens avenue, Jersey City Heights, N. J.

HOW THE SHEET OF COPPER WAS DIVIDED.

IN this puzzle it was told how a metal dealer had occasion to ship a large piece of copper which it was impossible to roll, it being found necessary to divide it into four pieces, it was ordered to be cut into pieces of precisely the same size and shape. It was not quite so easy as it looked, and some of our most clever puzzleists practised for several hours with paper and scissors before hitting upon the following way of helping the metal dealer out of his dilemma.

The young man who sent in the first correct solution to the copper cutting problem is Master JOSEPH McCARTHY, aged 9 years, of 742 Washington avenue, Brooklyn.



THIS IS HOW THE COPPER WAS CUT INTO FOUR PIECES ALL THE SAME SIZE.